



Natural Resources Commission

Meeting Minutes

Date: November 10, 2021

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Location: Michigan Historical Center Auditorium
702 West Kalamazoo Street
Lansing, MI 48915

Roll call

Present for the Natural Resources Commission (Commission):

- Carol Moncrieff Rose, Chair
- Tom Baird
- David Cozad
- Keith Creagh
- David Nyberg - absent
- J.R. Richardson

Present for the Department of Natural Resources (Department) Staff

- Daniel Eichinger, DNR Director
- Shannon Lott, DNR Natural Resources Deputy
- Trevor VanDyke, DNR Director of Legal and Legislative Affairs Office
- Brooke Parmalee, DNR, Legal and Legislative Affairs Office

Meeting minutes

Opening Comments:

Chair Rose called the meeting of the Commission to order at 9:00 a.m. **Chair Rose** took a moment to recognize the Veterans attending the meeting before she called for a roll call. All Commissioners except **Commissioner Nyberg** were present. **Chair Rose** asked for everyone in the room to introduce themselves. **Chair Rose** called for a motion to approve the day's agenda, **Commissioner Creagh** made the motion to approve, **Commissioner Baird** supported the motion. **Chair Rose** called for discussion, there being none, a vote was taken, and the agenda was approved unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was the approval of the October 14, 2021, Commission meeting minutes.

Chair Rose called for a motion to approve the October 14, 2021, Commission meeting minutes.

Commissioner Cozad made a motion to approve; supported by **Commissioner Baird**. **Chair Rose** called for additional discussion, there being none, called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Rose called for a motion to approve the October 14, 2021, Closed Session meeting minutes. **Commissioner Baird** made a motion to approve; supported by **Commissioner Creagh**. **Chair Rose** called for additional discussion, there being none, called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE:

Director's Report:

Director Eichinger began his report with the introductions of several awards given to staff emphasizing staff respond to a wide range of assistance activities that may include calls for help from citizens while carrying out their daily duties. He stated it's an honor on behalf of the Department to recognize staff members who have shown bravery, a passion for helping others in need, and a passion for what they do every day on the job. The following staff were recognized:

- a. Parks and Recreation Division Lifesaving Awards presented by Ron Olson, Chief, Parks and Recreation Division

Corey Oldfield, Park Ranger – Grand Haven State Park
Charlie Yonker, State Worker – Grand Haven State Park
Cody Sapp, Park Ranger – Holland State Park

- b. Law Enforcement Division Awards presented by Gary Hagler, Chief, Law Enforcement Division

Distinguished Service Award – Officer Tyler Sabuda
Shikar Safari Officer of the Year Awards – Andrea Erratt & Ivan Perez
Safari Club International

Chair Rose requested a break following the awards presentation to take photos with the recipients.

The Director's Report continued with two presentations by staff.

Order to Restrict Firearm Use on State Forest Lands in Benzie County (*David Lemmien, Acting Assistant Chief, Forest Resources Division*)

Michigan Steelhead Management and Research (*Todd Grishke, Assistant Chief, Jay Wesley & Jory Jonas, Fisheries Division*)

Public Appearances Before the NRC

Stacy Welling Haughey read the official timekeeping procedures and guidelines for the meeting's public appearances.

- a. 5 Minute Comment
 - i. Jim Felgenauer, Lake St. Clair Citizen's Fisheries Advisory Committee – FO 200.22
 - ii. Frank Krist, Lake Huron Citizen's Fisheries Advisory Committee – FO 200.22
 - iii. Randy Terrian, Lake Huron Citizen's Fisheries Advisory Committee – FO 200.22
 - iv. Ian Fitzgerald, Michigan United Conservation Clubs – FO 200.22
 - v. Steve Mondrella – FO 200.22
 - vi. Brian Pitser, The Northern Angler Fly Shop – FO 200.22
 - vii. Dave Peterson, Fly Fishers International, Great Lakes Council – FO 200.22
 - viii. Ray Schmidt – Steelhead Fishing Limits
 - ix. Jim Bos, President, Pere Marquette Watershed Council – FO 200.22
- b. 3 Minute Comment
 - i. Mark Jones – Sandhill Cranes
 - ii. Mary Rosseel-Jones – Sandhill Cranes
 - iii. Mike Repa – Michigan Deer Tracking Hounds – Michigan Law
 - iv. Chris Hillman ~ Sandhill Cranes

Chair Rose adjourned the public comment portion of the meeting at 1:06 p.m. The regular meeting of the Commission was called to order at 1:07 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

New Business

Chair Rose noted there is one order up for information for the Director this month.

- a. Director's Orders
 - i. [Land Use Order of the Director 7 of 2021](#)
[Order to Restrict Firearm Use on State Forest Lands in Benzie County](#)

Chair Rose noted there are 10 land transactions.

- b. Land Transactions
 - i. [Sale of Surplus DNR-Managed Land](#)
[Forest Resources Division, Roscommon County](#)
[Land Transaction Case #20210027](#)
 - ii. [Sale of Surplus DNR-Managed Land](#)
[Forest Resources Division, Baraga County](#)
[Land Transaction Case #20210071](#)
 - iii. [Sale of Surplus DNR-Managed Land](#)

- [Forest Resources Division, Arenac County](#)
[Land Transaction Case #20210095](#)
- iv. [Sale of Surplus DNR-Managed Land](#)
[Forest Resources Division, Cheboygan County](#)
[Land Transaction Case #20210131](#)
- v. [Exchange of State Forest Land](#)
[Forest Resources Division, Jackson County](#)
[The Palmer Exchange](#)
[Land Transaction Case #20170204](#)
- vi. [Acquisition of State Parks and Recreation Land](#)
[Parks and Recreation Division, Mason County](#)
[The Mortensen Trust Tract](#)
[Land Transaction Case #20210046](#)
- vii. [Acquisition of State Parks and Recreation Land](#)
[Parks and Recreation Division, Cheboygan County](#)
[The City of Cheboygan Tract](#)
[Land Transaction Case #20210125](#)
- viii. [Acquisition of State Parks and Recreation Land](#)
[Parks and Recreation Division, Lake County](#)
[The Gross Trust Tract](#)
[Land Transaction Case #20210168](#)
- ix. [Acquisition of State Forest Land](#)
[Forest Resources Division, Chippewa County](#)
[The PMBJ LLC Tract](#)
[Land Transaction Case #20210171](#)
- x. [Acquisition of State Forest Land](#)
[Forest Resources Division, Mackinac County](#)
[The PMBJ LLC Tract](#)
[Land Transaction Case #20210172](#)

Director Eichinger indicated he would sign all the Land Transactions.

Chair Rose noted there are no NRC Orders up for information this month.

- c. NRC Orders - None

Old Business

Chair Rose noted there are no Director items under old business.

a. Director's Orders – None

b. NRC Orders

i. [Fisheries Order 200.22](#)

[Inland Rivers and Streams - Trout and Salmon Regulations](#)

- **Chair Rose** called for a motion to un-table Fisheries Order 200.22. **Commissioner Cozad** made a motion to un-table Fisheries Order 200.22; supported by **Commissioner Creagh**. **Chair Rose** then asked for discussion. Following discussion, the motion to un-table Fisheries Order 200.22 passed unanimously.
- Fisheries Order 200.22 was open for discussion. After discussion, **Chair Rose** called for a motion to table Fisheries Order 200.22 for further discussion at the December 9, 2021, meeting. A motion to table Fisheries Order 200.22 was made by **Commissioner Baird**, supported by **Commissioner Cozad**. **Chair Rose** asked for discussion. Following discussion, the motion to table Fisheries Order 200.22 passed unanimously.

ii. [Fisheries Order 202.22](#)

[Special Hook Size Fishing Regulations](#)

- **Chair Rose** called for a motion to approve Fisheries Order 202.22. **Commissioner Creagh** made a motion to approve; supported by **Commissioner Richardson**.
- **Chair Rose** called for additional discussion, there being none, called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

iii. [Fisheries Order 204.22](#)

[Spawning Closures](#)

- **Chair Rose** called for a motion to approve Fisheries Order 204.22. **Commissioner Cozad** made a motion to approve; supported by **Commissioner Baird**. **Chair Rose** called for additional discussion, there being none, called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

iv. [Fisheries Order 206.22](#)

[Special Fishing Regulations for Warmwater Species on Select Waters](#)

- **Chair Rose** called for a motion to approve Fisheries Order 206.22. **Commissioner Cozad** made a motion to approve; supported by **Commissioner Creagh**. **Chair Rose** called for additional discussion. **Commissioner Cozad** made a motion to amend Fisheries Order 206.22 to provide for the establishment of a year-round Walleye season on the Lower Saginaw River (Bay and Saginaw Counties) having a daily possession limit of eight (8) Walleye and a minimum length of 13 inches with no special gear restrictions; supported by **Commissioner Baird**. Following discussion, a motion was made by **Commissioner Cozad** to table Fisheries Order 206.22; supported by **Commissioner Baird**. **Chair Rose** called for a vote. The motion to table Fisheries Order 206.22 passed unanimously.

Commissioner Baird – thanked the Fisheries staff for great work on the steelhead report. The information provided helped him understand the situation. He also thanked Frank Krist and the Lake Huron Citizen's Fisheries Advisory Committee for the work they've done and continue to do. He's looking forward to the committee structure to avoid hiccups in the future. The committees will allow discussions in advance which will help avoid a lack of communication with the public as well as the staff.

Commissioner Cozad – echoed the remarks of **Commissioner Baird**. He's looking forward to starting the Commission discussions with the committees to vet some of the issues in advance and provide everyone with the time and the information needed to process issues. He also thanked the staff for the information and the public for their participation in the meeting. He reported he was successful in his upland game bird hunt.

Commissioner Creagh – reported he had been to Rose Lake and had heard people are very happy with the pheasant stocking and there have been very positive experiences. He also reported he's had a successful crossbow season putting a 9-point buck in his freezer. He was also able to get into the woods hunting grouse and woodcock this fall.

Commissioner Richardson – reported he traveled to Idaho for steelhead fishing and Montana flyfishing. He thanked the Fisheries staff for all the information provided at the day's meeting. He wished everyone a safe and productive deer season.

Chair Rose – echoed the comments made by all the Commissioners regarding how important the interaction is with the stakeholders, the general public, and the Department staff, she feels it's a critical part of the deliberation process. She appreciates those that took the time to drive great distances to share their thoughts and those that attended the meeting earlier. She also thanked those that take the time to write lengthy letters. She also thanked the staff for the revealing presentation which helps in better understanding the fisheries issues. She agrees that getting back to the committee structure will assist with future conversations. She thanked MUCC for continuing to Livestream the meetings for those that are unable to attend. She wished Ian Fitzgerald, MUCC, well in his new position. She also wished everyone a safe deer hunting season and a Happy Thanksgiving.

Director Eichinger – reported he and Dr. Newcomb traveled to Springfield, Illinois to continue the discussions with the Army Corp of Engineers as the Department goes through the preconstruction, engineering, and design phase for the invasive carp barrier. Dr. Newcomb is very closely engaged. As the process continues, he will provide periodic updates as the process unfolds. He discussed the FY22 operating budget for the Department provided at the October meeting. He stated there are ongoing discussions between the legislature and the administration on appropriations as it relates to the American Rescue Plan. The reported conversations will continue through December 2021. The key component of the discussion is the investment the Governor announced last summer to use \$250 million of funds to resolve the state park infrastructure backlog, in addition, the Governor is investing \$150 million in local park and recreation projects as well. The Senate Republicans introduced a package of bills to also make a significant investment in park infrastructure. It's very exciting to see alignment

across the government with the need for investment in the park's structure. He also reported that he's hoping to do better with opening firearm deer season than he was with his upland game bird season.

Adjournment

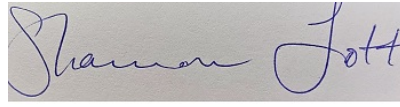
Chair Rose asked for a motion to adjourn. **Commissioner Creagh** made a motion to adjourn the meeting; **Commissioner Baird** supported the motion. **Chair Rose** called for discussion, there being none, a vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 1:49 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Commission is scheduled for **Thursday, December 9, 2021**, at the **Michigan Library and Historical Center Forum located at 702 West Kalamazoo Street, Lansing, MI 48915**.



Carol Moncrieff Rose, NRC Chair

 for

Daniel Eichinger, DNR Director

DATE: December 9, 2021